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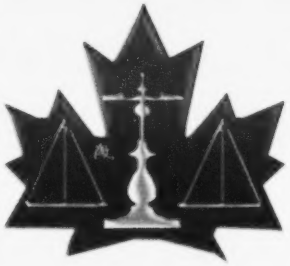
Police-reported sexual offences against children and youth in Canada, 2012



by Adam Cotter and Pascale Beaupré

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

Police-reported sexual offences against children and youth in Canada, 2012: highlights

- Approximately 14,000 children and youth (under the age of 18) were victims of a police-reported sexual offence in 2012, a rate of 205 victims for every 100,000 children and youth. This was similar to the rate of sexual offences against children and youth in 2009.
- Children and youth accounted for over half (55%) of all victims of a police-reported sexual offence in 2012, while making up 20% of the population of Canada.
- About three-quarters (72%) of all child and youth victims of sexual offences were victims of level 1 (minor or no physical injury) sexual assault. Levels 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) and 3 (aggravated) sexual assault comprised about 1%, and the remaining 27% were victims of sexual offences that are specifically applicable to children and youth, of which sexual interference was the most frequent.
- Similar to crime rates in general, rates of sexual offences against children and youth were highest in the territories, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. Among census metropolitan areas, Saguenay (523 per 100,000 child and youth population), Kingston (350 per 100,000), and Moncton (312 per 100,000) recorded the highest rates of sexual offences against children and youth.
- Girls were more frequently the victims of a sexual offence than boys. In 2012, four of every five (81%) child victims of a sexual offence were female.
- The majority of persons accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth were known by the victim. The accused person was most commonly an acquaintance (44%) or a family member (38%). About one in ten (12%) sexual offences against children and youth were committed by a stranger.
- Sexual offences against children and youth were more likely than any other type of offence against the person to involve a delay in coming to the attention of police. About one-quarter (26%) of all sexual offences against children or youth which came to the attention of police in 2012 occurred in a previous year.
- Three in ten (30%) persons accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth were between the ages of 12 and 17, with the peak ages among all offenders for this type of offence occurring when the accused person was 13 (117 per 100,000) or 14 (115 per 100,000) years of age.
- The vast majority (97%) of persons accused of a sexual offence against children or youth were male.
- Between 2005 and 2012, 3% of all homicides against children and youth were motivated by sexual violence.
- Three-quarters (74%) of completed adult and youth court cases involving sexual offences against children and youth resulted in a finding of guilt in 2011/2012. Of completed cases with a guilty finding, 81% of adults and 9% of youth were sentenced to custody.

Police-reported sexual offences against children and youth in Canada, 2012

by Adam Cotter and Pascale Beaupré

Sexual violations against children and youth[1] are a pressing concern, both in Canada and internationally (Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights 2011). Not only do these offences have immediate negative physical, emotional, and psychological impacts, they can also have damaging long-term effects on the children and youth who are the victims of these crimes (Dube et al. 2005). In addition, as part of Bill C-10, the omnibus crime bill introduced in 2011 by the Canadian government, a number of amendments to the *Criminal Code* sections concerning sexual offences against children were made, including the introduction or lengthening of mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for particular offences (Barnett et al. 2012). Bill C-26, the *Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act*, which passed second reading in the House of Commons on February 26, 2014, also proposes a number of amendments, including increasing maximum and minimum penalties for certain *Criminal Code* child sexual offences. Furthermore, the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (2011) recommended an increased focus on national research and statistical information concerning child and youth victims of sexual offences as part of a national strategy for support, prevention, and services for child and youth victims.

Using data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (adult and youth), this *Juristat* article explores the prevalence and the nature of police-reported sexual offences against children and youth in Canada (see Definitions). In particular, the rate of victims reported by police, the types of offences, and characteristics of the victims as well as the accused persons are explored. Furthermore, information on the relationship between the victim and the accused, the length of time between the occurrence of an incident and its subsequent reporting to police, and decisions made by adult and youth courts are also analyzed.

Text box 1
Police-reported sexual offences against children and youth

The data presented in this *Juristat* represent primarily police-reported statistics, and do not cover non-sexual forms of abuse or violence such as physical assault, neglect, or maltreatment. For these types of violations, the comparability of police-reported data across jurisdictions and over time may be influenced by levels of reporting to police, as well as single incidents that include several victims. Furthermore, analysis is based on the most serious violation in an incident. When reporting data to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, police can include up to four violations in an incident.[2] The police-reported violations which provide the basis for this *Juristat* are those for which victim information is available and reported by police, and as a result excludes some offences which involve sexual violations against children and youth but for which specific information about the victim is not available (see Definitions).

Previous research (Finkelhor et al. 2001; Taylor & Gassner 2010) has indicated that sexual offences tend to be underreported in police statistics for various reasons, including personal trauma, fear of victim-blaming or re-victimization, perceived seriousness, whether the offence was attempted or completed, whether an injury was incurred, whether a weapon was used, attitude towards and previous experience with police and other officials, and the influence of family and friends.

When analyzing sexual offences against children and youth, this underreporting may be compounded for a number of reasons. Children and youth who are the victims of violence often do not report it, as they may be unable to do so or afraid to report to authorities (United Nations 2006). Some children and youth may not understand certain behaviours as crimes or as matters for the criminal justice system (Kuoppamaki et al. 2011). When children and youth are victimized, particularly when it comes to very young and dependent children, reporting often depends on an adult bringing the offence to the attention of police (Finkelhor et al. 2001).

Text box 1 continued
Police-reported sexual offences against children and youth

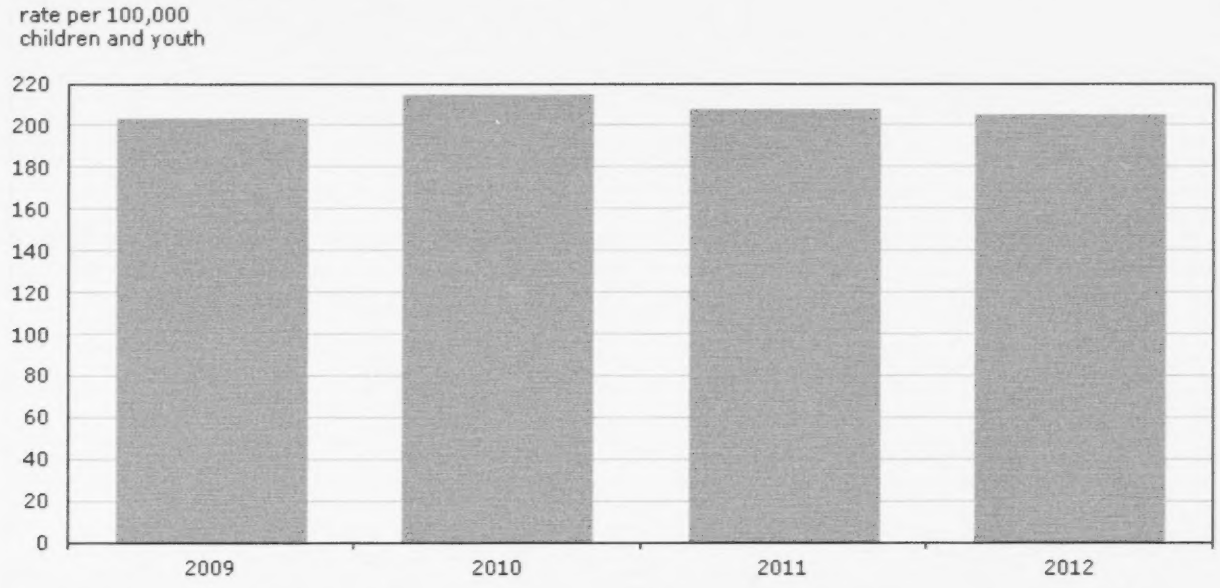
While this *Juristat* focuses on child and youth victims of sexual offences, it is also important to note that, within this population, differences exist. For example, younger children are less independent and, as a result, more frequently victims of violence from family members compared to older youth, who encounter a broader range of people and environments in their day-to-day lives (Ogrodnik 2010). Similarly, younger children often lack social networks or contact outside of the family, which can impact not only their everyday lives but also their ability to report violations to the police.

Children and youth more frequently victims of sexual offences than adults

There were approximately 14,000 child and youth victims of sexual offences in Canada in 2012, a rate of 205 victims for every 100,000 children and youth. Roughly one in five (21%) offences with a child or youth victim reported to police in 2012 was a sexual offence. In contrast, 4% of all offences with an adult victim in Canada in 2012 were sexual offences. Victims between the ages of 18 to 24 recorded the next highest rate of sexual offences (140 per 100,000 population), and rates steadily decreased thereafter, reaching 6 per 100,000 population for those victims age 55 and over.

After peaking at 215 victims for every 100,000 children and youth in 2010, the rate of sexual offences against children and youth has decreased for two consecutive years (Chart 1).[3] The rate in 2012 was similar to the rate of police-reported sexual offences against children and youth in 2009.

Chart 1
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences, Canada, 2009 to 2012



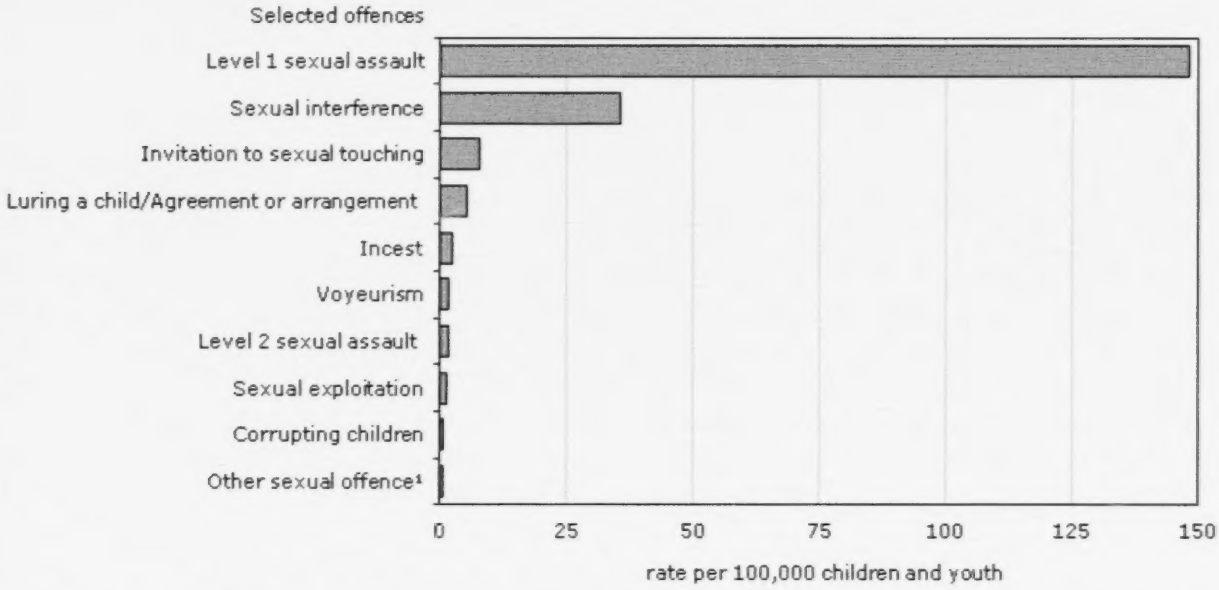
Note: The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey Trend Database (2009 to 2012) represents 99% of police services in Canada. Analysis of this four-year trend database is limited to a subset of offences. Offences where the victim information reported is complete are included in the subset, while those with incomplete records are excluded. In addition, offences are limited to those which have been classified in a consistent manner over the four-year period. The sexual offences in this chart include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey Trend database.

Children and youth are disproportionately the victims of police-reported sexual offences. The majority (55%) of victims of police-reported sexual offences were between the ages of 0 and 17. In 2012, children and youth under the age of 18 comprised 20% of the total Canadian population. Similarly, children and youth accounted for about one-fifth (18%) of all victims of crimes against the person in 2012.

Level 1 sexual assault most common violation against children and youth

While there are some *Criminal Code* offences which, by definition, require that the victim is under the age of 18 (see Definitions), these offences account for a minority of all child and youth victims of sexual offences. Roughly three-quarters (72%) of sexual offences against children and youth in 2012 were level 1 sexual assault. This represented a rate of 148 child and youth victims of level 1 sexual assault for every 100,000 children and youth in the population (Table 1; Chart 2). Level 1 sexual assault was also the most frequent violation against adult victims of sexual offences (93%).

Chart 2
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences, by violation, Canada, 2012



1. Includes aggravated sexual assault (level 3), making sexually explicit material available to children, anal intercourse, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, and bestiality (commit/compel/incite).
Note: Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

A small proportion (1%) of child and youth victims of sexual offences were victims of level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) or level 3 (aggravated) sexual assault. The remaining (27%) victims of sexual offences against children and youth were victims of a violation that typically applies to incidents involving victims under the age of 18. Sexual interference, with a rate of 35 victims for every 100,000 children and youth, was the most common of these violations.

Text box 2
Police-reported child prostitution and child pornography

In addition to the offences for which information on the victims is available, there are other offences for which this specific information is not available but likewise involve children and youth in sexual situations: living off the avails of prostitution of a person under 18, procuring prostitution, obtaining/communicating with a person under 18 for the purpose of sex, and the production and distribution of child pornography[4] (see Definitions).

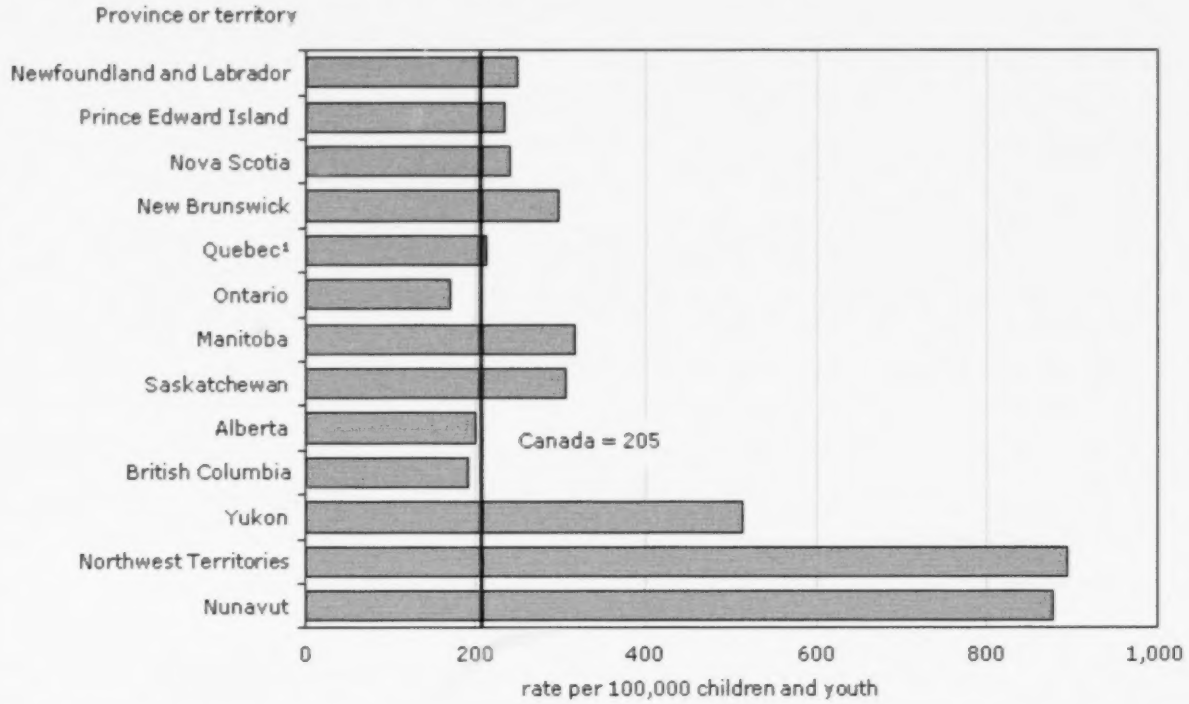
For the majority of sexual offences involving children and youth, victim information is available to and reported by police. Compared to the roughly 14,000 such victims in 2012, there were approximately 2,000 incidents investigated by Canadian police services where the most serious offence was a sexual violation of a child or youth without particular victim information available.

As previously stated, the analysis in this report is based upon the most serious offence in an incident. However, when looking at all offences reported within an incident, in order to capture incidents where a child pornography or child prostitution offence was not the most serious offence in an incident, the same trend is evident. There were 2,293 incidents where police reported a child pornography or child prostitution related offence as at least one violation within the incident; the majority (92%) involved the production and/or distribution of child pornography.

Rates of police-reported sexual offences against children and youth highest in the territories

The prevalence of police-reported sexual offences against children and youth varies across the country. Similar to crime in general (Perreault 2013), rates of sexual offences against children and youth were highest in the territories in 2012 (Table 2). The Northwest Territories (895 per 100,000 population) and Nunavut (878 per 100,000) recorded the highest rates in Canada in 2012, followed by Yukon (514 per 100,000) (Chart 3).

Chart 3
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences, by province and territory, 2012



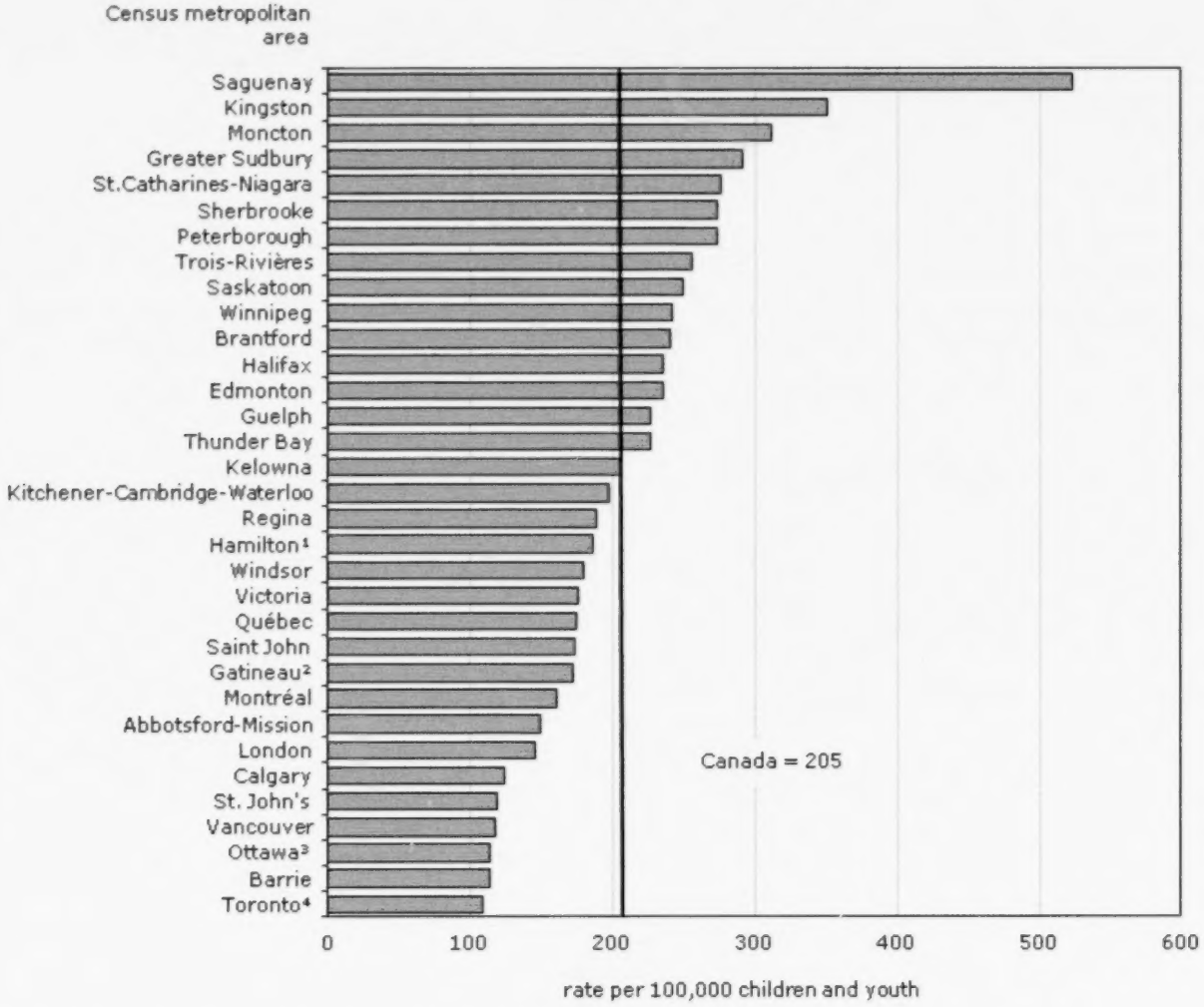
1. Excludes a small number of victims whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Note: The sexual offences in this chart include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Among the provinces, Manitoba (316 per 100,000 child and youth population) and Saskatchewan (306 per 100,000) recorded the highest rates of sexual offences against children and youth. In contrast, Alberta (200 per 100,000), British Columbia (192 per 100,000) and Ontario (170 per 100,000) recorded the lowest rates. Across all provinces and territories, the rate of sexual offences against children and youth peaked between the ages of 12 and 15, with a national rate of 399 victims per 100,000 population for this age group.

Saguenay CMA records highest rate of sexual offences against children and youth

Just as there is variation between the provinces and territories, Canada's census metropolitan areas[5] (CMAs) report varying rates of sexual offences against children and youth. In 2012, Saguenay's rate of child and youth sexual offences (523 per 100,000 child and youth population) was the highest among CMAs, followed by Kingston (350) and Moncton (312) (Chart 4). Saguenay also ranks highest among CMAs when it comes to family violence against children and youth (Sinha 2013).

Chart 4
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences, by census metropolitan area, 2012



1. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton CMA.
2. Refers to the Quebec portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
3. Refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
4. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Services that police the Toronto CMA.

Note: A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. The sexual offences in this chart include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

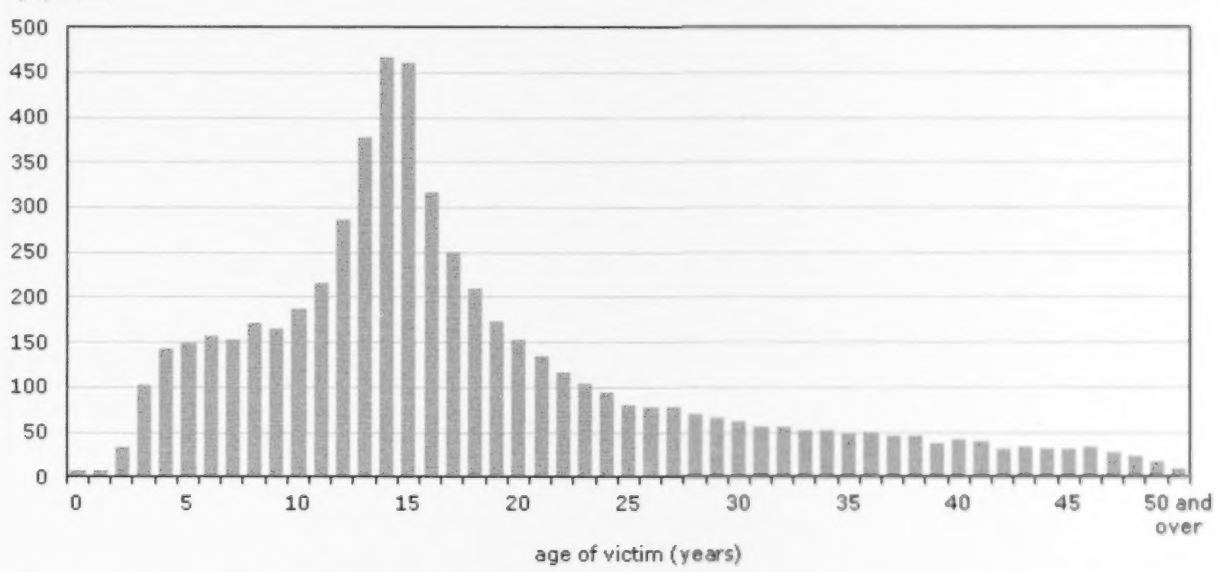
In comparison, the lowest rates among CMAs were reported by Ottawa (114), Barrie (113), and Toronto (109). Canada's three largest CMAs, Toronto, Montréal, and Vancouver, each had rates of child and youth sexual offences that were below the national rate of 205 per 100,000 child and youth population.

Furthermore, rates of sexual offences against children and youth were higher in non-CMAs compared to CMAs (Table 3). For all children and youth under the age of 18, the rate of sexual offences was about twice as high in non-CMAs than for CMAs as a whole (301 per 100,000 children and youth population compared to 159). The difference in rates between CMAs and non-CMAs was consistent for youth between the ages of 0 and 11 years and those between the ages of 12 and 17.

Victims of police-reported sexual offences typically in their early teens; female

While children and youth are more frequently the victims of sexual offences than adults, not all children and youth are victims at the same rate. In 2012, the rate of sexual offences generally increased with age until peaking at 14 (466 per 100,000 population). Following this peak in the early-teenage years, the rate decreases with age (Chart 5).

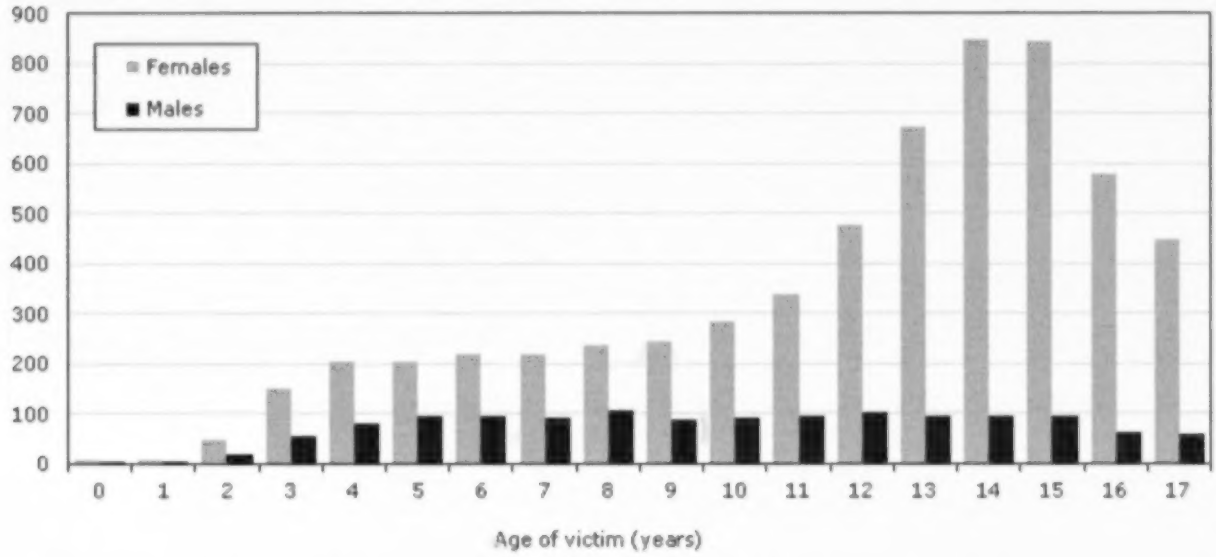
Chart 5
Victims of police-reported sexual offences, by age, Canada, 2012



Note: The sexual offences in this chart include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In addition to the variation by age among child and youth victims of sexual offences, there is variation by sex. The majority (81%) of child and youth victims of sexual offences in 2012 were female, a finding that was consistent across all ages. Although girls were more frequently the victims of sexual offences across all ages, the age at which the rate of sexual offences peaked differed for males and females (Chart 6).

Chart 6
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported sexual offences, by age and sex, Canada, 2012



Note: The sexual offences in this chart include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

For girls, the rates of sexual offences generally increased with age before peaking at age 14 (849 victims per 100,000 population). In contrast, the rates for boys were relatively consistent between the ages of 5 and 15 years, before decreasing for 16- and 17-year-old victims. The peak age at which boys were victims of sexual offences was 8 (109 per 100,000 population).

Manitoba (541 per 100,000 female children and youth) and Saskatchewan (528 per 100,000 female children and youth) likewise had the highest rates of female child and youth victims of sexual offences among the provinces in 2012, above the national rate of 341 per 100,000 female children and youth (Table 4). Looking at the rate of male children and youth who were victims of police-reported sexual offences, the highest rates among the provinces were recorded in the eastern provinces of New Brunswick (134 per 100,000 male children and youth) and Nova Scotia (103 per 100,000), compared to the Canadian rate of 75 per 100,000 male children and youth.

Most child and youth victims of sexual offences know the accused person

Similar to crime in general, most child and youth victims of sexual offences knew the person accused of the offence. About nine in ten (88%) of all sexual offences were committed by an individual known to the victim, with the remainder (12%) committed by a stranger. More specifically, the accused person was an acquaintance[6] of the victim in 44% of incidents, a family member in 38% of incidents, and an intimate partner[7] 6% of the time.

Based on police-reported data, very young children were mostly victimized by a family member while older children were most frequently victimized by an acquaintance or stranger. For those age 0 to 3 years, a family member was the accused person for two-thirds (66%) of victims. The involvement of family members as accused persons decreased with age, reaching 19% for victims aged 16 to 17 years of age (Table 5).

In contrast, the proportion of acquaintances and strangers accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth victim increased as the age of the victim increased. An acquaintance was the accused person for 3 in 10 (30%) 0 to 3 year old victims, compared to over half (53%) for those age 16 and 17. While a stranger was the accused person for 4% of all 0 to 3 year old victims in 2012, strangers accounted for one in five (19%) of all accused persons for victims who were 16 or 17 years of age. These shifting proportions may be related to the more diverse environments and individuals older youth encounter on a daily basis compared to younger children, who tend to be less independent (Ogrodnik 2010).

Sexual offences against children and youth often delayed in coming to attention of police

The UCR Survey collects data on *Criminal Code* offences as they are reported to and substantiated by police. This means that annual police-reported crime statistics can include some criminal offences that occurred in previous years. When looking at all offences against the person reported to police in 2012, the large majority occurred in that same year. In comparison, delayed reporting to police seems to be more prevalent among sexual offences against children and youth.

One-quarter (26%) of all sexual offences against children and youth reported to police in 2012 occurred in a previous year, compared to one in ten (9%) sexual violations against adults, and less than one percent of non-sexual violations against children and youth.[8]

There are delays in the offence coming to the attention of police for a larger proportion of male victims than female victims. Of the sexual offences that came to the attention of police in 2012, two-thirds (67%) of those involving a male child or youth victim occurred during 2012, while three-quarters (76%) of those involving female child or youth victims occurred in 2012. The proportion of incidents which occurred in the previous ten years was similar for both males and females, while male victims more frequently had a delay in reporting of more than 10 years compared to females (17% versus 7%). This suggests that some victims may be adults when they report their childhood victimization to the police.

Although males comprise a minority of victims of sexual offences, they may be more hesitant than females to report sexual offences to police or other authorities. An analysis of the self-reported United States' National Crime Victimization Survey noted that 30% of female victims of sexual offences reported the crime to police or other authorities, compared to 15% of male victims (Weiss 2010). For both males and females, delayed disclosure and avoidance of the incident may serve as coping strategies following a sexual offence (Easton 2013). Thus, while females represent the majority of victims of sexual offences, males may be more likely to fail to report or delay reporting the incident to police.

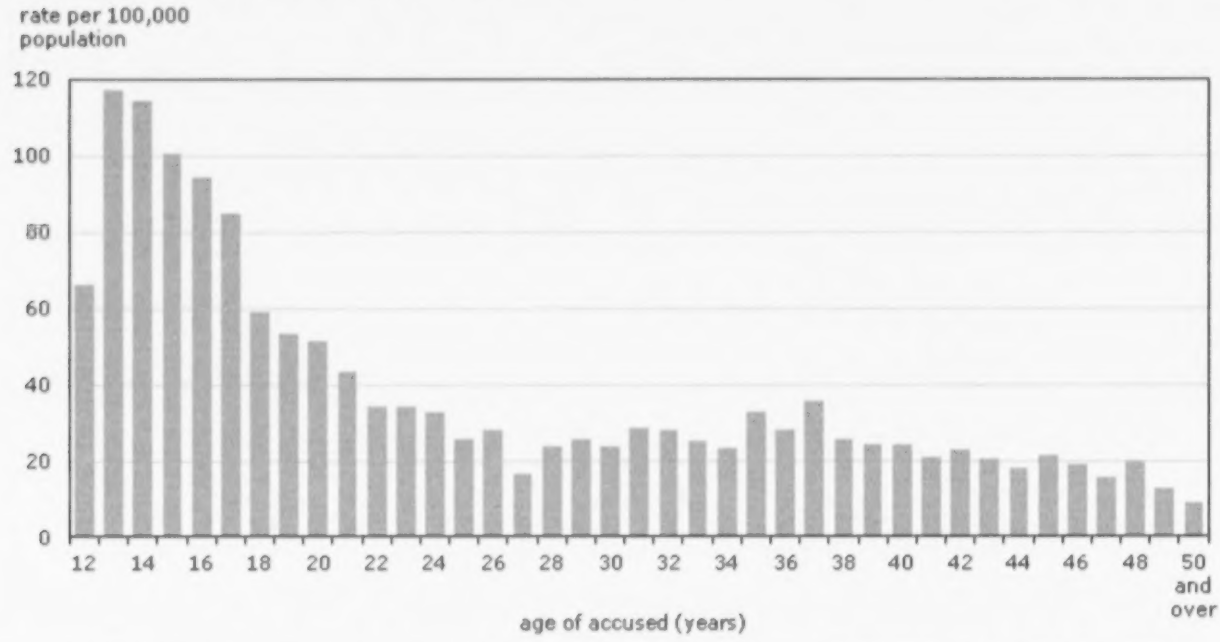
In addition, differences in reporting to police are noted when analyzing the relationship between the victim and the accused person. For example, data reported by Canadian police services show that 91% of sexual offences against children or youth committed by strangers were reported to police in the year in which they occurred. Similarly, a large proportion of sexual offences against children and youth committed by intimate partners (85%) or acquaintances (81%) both occurred and were reported to police in 2012. In contrast, however, sexual offences against children and youth committed by family members and authority figures most commonly result in delays in reporting to police. Roughly four in ten (37% for family members, 41% for authority figures) of such offences reported to police in 2012 occurred in previous years (data not shown).

Delays in reporting also vary by the age of the victim at the time of the offence. Delays were most frequently noted when the victim was 8 (45% of offences occurred in previous years), 9 (44%), or 10 (42%) years of age when the offence took place. The proportion of incidents which occurred in previous years then declined consistently with age, reaching 13% for 17-year-olds. For younger children, there were delays in reporting for 22% of victims between the ages of 0 and 3 at the time of the offence, and 29% for those victims between 4 and 7 years of age.

One-third of sexual offences against children or youth committed by another youth

When children and youth were the victims of a sexual offence, the accused person was frequently someone close to their age.[9] In 2012, the rates of persons accused of sexual offences against children and youth peaked at 13 (117 per 100,000) and 14 (115 per 100,000) years of age, and thereafter declined generally with age (Chart 7).

Chart 7
Persons accused of sexual offences against children and youth, by age of accused, Canada, 2012



Note: The sexual offences in this chart include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Rates are based on a subset of incidents where there was a single accused person and a single victim. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

While the rates of accused persons generally decreased after peaking at age 14, there was a slight increase in the rate of accused persons who were in their late 20s and 30s. Roughly half (51%) of all persons accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth were over the age of 25, a proportion that peaked when the victim was between the ages of 0 and 3 years (61%).

Three in ten (30%) of those accused of sexual offences against children and youth were under the age of 18 (Table 6). When the victim was under the age of 12, the accused person was most commonly between the ages of 12 and 17 (39%). When the victim was between the ages of 12 and 17, the accused person was most frequently between the ages of 12 and 17 or 18 and 24 years (both 25%).

However, there was some variation in the age of accused persons when looking more specifically at the age groups of victims. For example, when the victim was between the ages of 0 to 3 years, the accused person was most often between the ages of 12 and 15 years (25%), 25 to 34 years (22%), or 35 to 44 years (22%). In contrast, when the victim was between the ages of 4 and 6, almost half (46%) of accused persons were between the ages of 12 and 15 years. When victims of sexual offences against children and youth were ages 16 or 17, the majority (82%) of accused persons were over the age of 18.

Many sexual offences against children and youth where a youth was the accused involved family members. When the accused was between the ages of 12 and 17 and the victim was under the age of 12, the accused person was most frequently a family member (59%), such as a sibling, cousin, or other extended family, while about four in ten (37%) accused persons were acquaintances. As the age of the victims increased, the most common type of relationship shifted. An acquaintance was the accused person in almost two-thirds (63%) of offences involving a youth accused and a victim between the ages of 12 and 17, and a further 15% involved an intimate partner relationship (data not shown).

Majority of persons accused of sexual offences against children and youth are male

While about three-quarters (78%) of persons accused of any type of offence against the person in Canada are male, a significantly higher proportion of those accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth victim are male.[10] In 2012, 97% of persons accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth were male, compared to 3% who were female (data not shown).

Eight in ten (81%) sexual offences against children and youth involved a male accused and a female victim. A smaller proportion (16%) involved a male accused and a male victim. A female accused person and a female (2%) or male (2%) victim accounted for the remainder of sexual offences against children and youth.[11]

Most sexual offences against children and youth occur in a private residence

The majority of police-reported sexual offences against children and youth occurred in a private residence in 2012. About three-quarters (74%) took place in a private residence, compared to about 4 in 10 (42%) non-sexual offences against children and youth (data not shown).

In addition, younger children were more frequently victims of a sexual offence that occurred in a private residence than older children. For those victims aged 0 to 3 years, 90% of offences took place in a private residence, a proportion which decreased with age, reaching 65% for those victims ages 16 to 17 years.

Small proportion of homicides of children and youth motivated by sexual violence

In addition to the information collected by the UCR Survey, the Homicide Survey collects data on victim, accused, and incident characteristics, including the motivation for homicide. Since 2005, there have been 13 child and youth victims of homicide where the homicide was motivated by sexual violence. These accounted for 3% of child and youth homicides with a known motive.[12] Over the same period, there were 68 adult victims of homicide motivated by sexual violence, or 2% of homicides with an adult victim and a known motive.[13]

Of the 13 child and youth victims of homicide motivated by sexual violence, 12 were female. In 9 incidents, the homicide was committed by a single accused person. In addition, the most common location for a homicide of a child or youth motivated by sexual violence since data became available in 2005 was an open area, such as a field, park, or playground (5 incidents) or a private home (5 incidents) (data not shown).

Text box 3
Sexual offences against children and youth in adult criminal and youth courts

Both adult criminal courts and youth courts in Canada process cases involving persons accused of sexual offences against children and youth. When looking at the subset of sexual offences for which it is possible to identify a child or youth victim[14], there were almost 1,800 completed cases in adult criminal and youth courts involving an individual accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth in 2011/2012 (Table 7). Of these, three-quarters (74%) resulted in a finding of guilt, with the offence of luring a child resulting in the highest proportion of guilty findings (83%). In comparison, of all cases completed in Canada in 2011/2012, 57% of youth court cases resulted in a guilty finding, as did 64% of all adult criminal court cases (Boyce 2013; Dauvergne 2013).

The types of sentences differed somewhat between adults and youth found guilty of a sexual offence against a child or youth. For adults, the most frequently imposed sentence[15] in 2011/2012 was custody (81%), followed by probation (75%) (Table 8). Approximately two-thirds (67%) of all youth found guilty, on the other hand, received a sentence of probation. Other sentences, including counselling programs, essays, and apologies, among others, were the next most common sentences for youth (20%). About one in ten (9%) youth found guilty of a sexual offence against a child or youth was sentenced to custody.

Text box 4
Sexual offences against children and youth and re-offending

Although measuring recidivism, or recontact, with the criminal justice system is challenging (Webster, Gartner, & Doob 2006), there has been much research exploring the prevalence with which persons accused of sexual offences against children and youth reoffend.

While the data from the UCR Survey does not presently allow for analysis of repeat or multiple contact with police, academic research has reached differing conclusions about the rate of recontact or recidivism of sexual offenders. One study, looking at adult men in Canada convicted of a sexual offence against an adult (n=86) or a child (n=500), found that 16.7% of these men were subsequently charged or convicted of another sexual offence (against a victim of any age) (Kingston & Bradford 2013). An aggregated analysis of research on sex offender recidivism found an average recidivism rate of 12.7% for sex offenders against children over an average follow-up period of 4 to 5 years; however, there was considerable variation in the rates found in the studies (Hanson & Bussière 1998).

A review of a number of studies with varying definitions of recidivism noted that the average recidivism rate found for sex offenders was 24% over a follow-up period of 15 years; the highest rate of recidivism found in their review was 35.5%, for a sample comprised of offenders who had sexually offended against children over a follow-up period of 23 years (Harris & Hanson 2004). Further analysis of the studies also revealed that, over a 15 year follow-up period, the category of sex offenders with the highest rate of recidivism was those who offended against boys under the age of 18 (35% were re-convicted). However, the majority of sex offenders were not re-arrested or re-charged for a sexual offence. The difficulties in consistently measuring and defining recidivism or recontact highlight the need for continuing research in order to improve understanding of the issue.

Summary

More than half (55%) of police-reported sexual offences in Canada involve a child or youth victim. There were approximately 14,000 children and youth who were the victims of a sexual offence in Canada in 2012, or a rate of 205 victims for every 100,000 children and youth. Of these offences, the majority (72%) were level 1 sexual assault. Similar to crime rates in general, rates of sexual offences against children and youth were highest in the territories, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

The large majority (81%) of child and youth victims of sexual offences are female. Across all ages, females were the victims of sexual offences at a higher rate than males, with the rate for girls peaking at 14 years of age and the rate for boys peaking at 8 years of age. In addition, the majority (97%) of those accused of a sexual offence against a child or youth were male. Rates of accused persons peaked at 13 and 14 years of age.

Three-quarters (74%) of cases in adult criminal and youth courts involving sexual offences against children result in a finding of guilt. In 2011/2012, child luring was the offence with the highest proportion of guilty findings.

Definitions

In this *Juristat*, sexual offences against children and youth include any sexual offence where the victim is between 0 and 17 years of age (see Table 1 for a detailed breakdown of offences). In Canada, a range of criminal acts are defined as sexual offences in the *Criminal Code*. The primary offences included in this *Juristat* article are those for which victim information is consistently available to and reported by police.

Offences for which victim information is available

Sexual assault (level 1) (section 271) is a hybrid[16] offence that criminalizes assault of a sexual nature that involves a violation of the sexual integrity of the complainant. The maximum penalties are 10 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 18 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. If the victim is under the age of 16 years, mandatory minimum penalties of one year apply if prosecuted by indictment and 90 days if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2) (section 272) is an indictable offence that criminalizes sexual assault involving a weapon, bodily harm or threats to cause bodily harm to a third party. The maximum penalty is 14 years imprisonment and mandatory minimum penalties apply, including a 5 year mandatory minimum penalty where the victim is under 16 years of age.

Aggravated sexual assault (level 3) (section 273) is an indictable offence that criminalizes sexual assault involving wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the complainant. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment. Mandatory minimum penalties apply, including a 5 year mandatory minimum penalty where the victim is under 16 years of age.

Sexual interference (section 151) is a hybrid offence that criminalizes touching a person under the age of 16 years for a sexual purpose. The maximum penalties are 10 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 18 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. Mandatory minimum penalties of one year apply if prosecuted by indictment and 90 days if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Invitation to sexual touching (section 152) is a hybrid offence that criminalizes inviting, counseling or inciting a person under the age of 16 to touch the body of any person for a sexual purpose. The maximum penalties are 10 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 18 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. Mandatory minimum penalties of one year apply if prosecuted by indictment and 90 days if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Sexual exploitation (section 153) is a hybrid offence that criminalizes touching a person who is 16 or 17 years old for a sexual purpose or inviting, counseling or inciting that person to touch the body of any person for a sexual purpose, if the person who commits the offence is in a position of trust or authority toward the young person or if the young person is in an exploitative relationship or in a relationship of dependency with the person who commits the offence. The maximum penalties are 10 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 18 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. Mandatory minimum penalties of one year apply if prosecuted by indictment and 90 days if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Incest (section 155) is an indictable offence that criminalizes engaging in sexual intercourse with a blood relation, including parents, children, siblings and grandparents. The maximum penalty is 14 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years applies where the victim is under 16 years of age.

Corrupting children (section 172) is an indictable offence which can result in a maximum of two years of imprisonment in cases where an individual under 18 is endangered or living in an unfit home due to the actions or behaviour of an adult. Charges may be laid under this section of the *Criminal Code* only if instituted by a recognized society for the protection of children or an officer of a juvenile court.

Making sexually explicit material available to children (section 171.1) is a hybrid offence that criminalizes transmitting, making available, distributing or selling sexually explicit material to a child to facilitate the commission of a sexual offence against a child. The maximum penalty is 2 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 6 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. Mandatory minimum penalties of 90 days apply if prosecuted by indictment and 30 days if prosecuted by summary conviction. This offence was enacted in August 2012.

Luring a child via a computer (section 172.1) and **Agreement or arrangement – sexual offence against child (section 172.2)** are separate *Criminal Code* sections counted together in the UCR Survey. Luring a child via a computer is a hybrid offence that criminalizes communicating with a child by any means of telecommunication to facilitate the commission of a sexual offence against the child. Agreement or arrangement is a hybrid offence that criminalizes agreeing or making an arrangement with a person by means of telecommunication to commit a sexual offence against a child. This offence was enacted in August 2012. For each of these offences, the maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 18 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. Mandatory minimum penalties of one year apply if prosecuted by indictment and 90 days if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Anal intercourse (section 159) is a hybrid offence that criminalizes engaging in an act of anal intercourse. The offence does not apply to acts engaged in, in private, by a husband and wife or persons who are above the age of 18 years and who consent to the act. The maximum penalties are 10 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 6 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. This offence has been found to be unconstitutional and of no force and effect in many jurisdictions[17], but may still be charged, for example, in cases involving allegations of historical sexual abuse.

Bestiality in the Presence of or by a Child (subsection 160(3)) is a hybrid offence that criminalizes committing bestiality in the presence of a person under the age of 16 years and inciting a person under the age of 16 years to commit bestiality. The maximum penalties are 10 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and two years less a day if prosecuted summarily. Mandatory minimum penalties of one year apply if prosecuted by indictment and 6 months if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Voyeurism (section 162) is a hybrid offence that criminalizes surreptitiously observing or making a visual recording of a person in circumstances that give rise to a reasonable expectation of privacy. Printing, copying, publishing, distributing, circulating, selling, advertising or making available such a visual recording also constitute an offence. The maximum penalties are 5 years imprisonment if prosecuted by indictment and 6 months if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Sexual violations against children and youth for which victim information is not available

The offences listed below are sexual violations against children and youth for which victim characteristics are not provided by police through the UCR Survey. As the universe of analysis for this *Juristat* is victims and their characteristics, the following violations are not included in the analysis. Please see text box 2 for information on child prostitution and child pornography.

Living off the avails of prostitution of a person under 18 (subsections 212(2) and (2.1)) is an indictable offence that criminalizes living wholly or in part on the avails of prostitution of another person who is under the age of eighteen years. The maximum penalty is 14 years and mandatory minimum penalties of 5 years apply where violence, intimidation or coercion is used, and 2 years in all other cases.

Procuring prostitution (paragraphs 212(a) to (j)) involves several offences which can apply to adults or children and youth (for example, living off avails of prostitution, soliciting a person for the purpose of having illicit sexual intercourse with another person, knowingly concealing a person in a common bawdy-house, etc.). In addition, there are two violations specific to children and youth that the UCR Survey classifies as procuring:

- **Parent or guardian procuring sexual activity (section 170)** is an indictable offence that criminalizes parents and guardians of persons under the age of 18 years who procure that young person for the purposes of engaging in illegal sexual activity. If the young person is under the age of 16 years, the maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment and the mandatory minimum penalty is

one year. If the young person is 16 or 17 years of age, the maximum penalty is 5 years imprisonment and the mandatory minimum penalty 6 months.

- **Householder permitting sexual activity (section 171)** is an indictable offence that criminalizes owners, occupiers or managers of premises who permit a person under the age of 18 years to be on their premises for the purposes of engaging in illegal sexual activity. If the young person is under the age of 16 years, the maximum penalty is 5 years imprisonment and the mandatory minimum penalty is 6 months. If the young person is 16 or 17 years of age, the maximum penalty is 2 years imprisonment and the mandatory minimum penalty 90 days.

The UCR Survey collects information on these two offences under one broad violation of procuring. Therefore, although these two specific offences apply only to children and youth, the UCR violation of procuring also includes offences involving adults. As a result, these offences are not included in this *Juristat*.

Obtaining/communicating with a person under 18 for the purpose of sex (section 212(4)) involves consideration, or communication with anyone for the purpose of obtaining for consideration, the sexual services of a person who is under the age of eighteen years. This is an indictable offence with a minimum punishment of six months of imprisonment and a maximum term of 5 years.

Child pornography (section 163.1) creates 4 hybrid offences that criminalize making, distributing, possessing and accessing child pornography. The maximum penalty for making or distributing child pornography is 10 years if prosecuted by indictment and two years less a day if prosecuted by summary conviction. Mandatory minimum penalties of one year apply, if prosecuted by indictment and 6 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. The maximum penalty for possessing or accessing child pornography is 5 years if prosecuted by indictment and 18 months if prosecuted by summary conviction. Mandatory minimum penalties of 6 months apply if prosecuted by indictment and 90 days if prosecuted by summary conviction.

Survey descriptions

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationships) and accused persons (age, sex). In 2012, data represented police services covering 99% of the population of Canada.

The UCR2 Trend Database (2009 to 2012) represents police services covering 99% of the population of Canada. Analysis of this four-year trend database is limited to a subset of offences. Offences where the victim information reported is complete are included in the subset, while incomplete records are excluded. In addition, offences are limited to those which have been classified in a consistent manner over the four-year period.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all murders in 1961 and was expanded in 1974 to include all incidents of manslaughter and infanticide. Although details on these incidents are not available prior to 1974, counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police service completes the survey questionnaires, which are then sent to Statistics Canada. There are cases where homicides become known to police months or years after they occurred. These incidents are counted in the year in which they become known to police. Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e. where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. For incidents involving more than one accused, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Integrated Criminal Court Survey

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is administered by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (Statistics Canada) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for criminal courts in Canada. The survey collects statistical information on adult and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences.

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Notes

1. Children are defined in this *Juristat* as those between the ages of 0 and 11, while youth are those between 12 and 17 years of age.

2. Information based on all violations within an incident is available upon request.

3. Rates are based on the UCR2 Trend file, which includes police services covering 99% of the population of Canada and including only those police services who have consistently responded in order to allow for comparisons over time.

4. The offence of "Child Pornography" includes offences under section 163.1 of the *Criminal Code* which makes it illegal to access, possess, make, print, or distribute child pornography. When the actual victim is not identified, this offence is reported to the UCR Survey with the most serious offence being "Child Pornography" which falls under the larger crime category of "Other *Criminal Code*". In cases where an actual victim is identified, police will report the most serious offence as sexual assault, sexual exploitation or other sexual violations against children, which falls under the category of "Violent Violations", and child pornography may be reported as a secondary violation.

5. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

6. Acquaintance includes friends, casual acquaintances (e.g., known by sight), authority figures, and other types of acquaintance. This includes an acquaintance or friend of the family or the parent rather than of the victim, particularly in the case of younger children.

7. Intimate partners include current and former legally married and common-law spouses, current and former boyfriends or girlfriends, for example, and apply only to victims 12 years of age and older.

8. Analysis in this section is based on the date where the incident occurred. In cases of ongoing or prolonged victimization of the same victim by the same perpetrator over a period of time, the incident date represents the most recent known occurrence.

9. To analyze particular accused characteristics, only incidents involving a single victim and a single accused person are used. This resulted in a subset of 7,679 victims, representing 55% of all child and youth victims of sexual offences reported to police in 2012.

10. To analyze particular accused characteristics, only incidents involving a single victim and a single accused person are used. This resulted in a subset of 7,679 victims, representing 55% of all child and youth victims of sexual offences reported to police in 2012.

11. Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding.

12. Over the period of 2005 to 2012, 87% of all homicides against children or youth had a known motive.

13. Over the period of 2005 to 2012, 86% of all homicides against adults had a known motive.

14. Analysis of courts data is limited to a subset of offences which are specifically noted as sexual offences against children in the *Criminal Code*: sexual interference (s. 151), child pornography (s. 163.1), invitation to sexual touching (s. 152), luring a child (s. 172.1), sexual exploitation (s. 153), indecent acts (s. 173(2)), procuring prostitution (s. 212), and other (which includes bestiality (s. 160 subsection 3), parent or guardian procuring sexual activity (s. 170), householder permitting sexual activity (s. 171) and corrupting children (s. 172)).

15. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

16. There are three different types of offence in the *Criminal Code*: summary, indictable, and hybrid. Summary offences are typically the least serious and may generally result in a maximum term of imprisonment of six months. Indictable offences are more serious and, depending on the offence, can have much longer maximum terms of imprisonment. A number of offences are designated hybrid offences, which means that the Crown can select whether to process the offence as either summary or indictable. This choice typically depends on the severity of the offence.

17. Section 159 of the *Criminal Code* has been found to be unconstitutional and struck down in its entirety by the Courts of Appeal in Ontario *(R. v. C.M.* (1995) 98 C.C.C. (3d) 629), Quebec *(R. v. Roy* (1998) 125 C.C.C. (3d) 442 / [1998] R.J.Q. 1043), British Columbia (*R. v. Blake* (2002) 187 B.C.A.C. 255), and Nova Scotia (*R. v. Farler* (2006) 212 C.C.C. (3d) 134), and by the Trial Courts in Alberta (*R. v. Roth* (2002) 306 A.R. 387) and the Federal Court(*Halm v. Canada (Minister of Employment and Immigration)*,[1995] F.C.J. No. 303).

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Child and youth victims of police-reported sexual offences, by type of offence and age group of victim, Canada, 2012

	Age group of victim											
	0 to 3 years		**4 to 6 years**		**7 to 11 years**		**12 to 15 years**		**16 to 17 years**		**0 to 17 years**	
Offence	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
Aggravated sexual assault (level 3)	3	0	2	0	3	0	5	0	7	1	**20**	**0**
Sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2)	2	0	5	0	12	1	55	4	35	4	**109**	**2**
Sexual assault (level 1)	401	26	1,211	107	2,201	121	4,216	275	2,130	251	**10,159**	**148**
Sexual violations against children	**174**	**11**	**480**	**42**	**1,039**	**57**	**1,845**	**120**	**229**	**27**	**3,767**	**55**
Sexual interference	147	10	385	34	728	40	1,173	76	...	...	**2,433**	**35**
Invitation to sexual touching	15	1	57	5	174	10	283	18	...	...	**529**	**8**
Sexual exploitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95	11	**95**	**1**
Sexual exploitation of a person with a disability	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	**7**	**0**
Incest	8	1	20	2	38	2	67	4	25	3	**158**	**2**
Corrupting children	3	0	10	1	13	1	13	1	1	0	**40**	**1**
Making sexually explicit material available to children	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	1	0	**9**	**0**
Luring a child/Agreement or arrangement	0	0	3	0	55	3	246	16	60	7	**364**	**5**
Anal intercourse	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	**8**	**0**
Bestiality (commit/compel/incite)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**1**	**0**
Voyeurism	1	0	5	0	23	1	55	4	39	5	**123**	**2**
Total, all sexual offences	**580**	**38**	**1,698**	**150**	**3,255**	**179**	**6,121**	**399**	**2,401**	**283**	**14,055**	**205**
All other violent offences	1,878	123	1,951	172	7,018	385	22,080	1,440	18,695	2,204	**51,622**	**752**
Total, violent offences	**2,458**	**161**	**3,649**	**322**	**10,273**	**564**	**28,201**	**1,839**	**21,096**	**2,487**	**65,677**	**957**

... not applicable
1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 child and youth population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Note: Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2
Child and youth victims of police-reported sexual offences, by age group of victim and province or territory, Canada, 2012

Province or territory	Age group of victim											
	0 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 15 years		16 to 17 years		0 to 17 years	
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	5	25	11	75	43	173	127	580	44	385	**230**	**248**
Prince Edward Island	0	0	7	158	15	194	36	516	9	228	**67**	**233**
Nova Scotia	17	47	49	180	84	189	211	528	49	220	**410**	**241**
New Brunswick	22	74	61	275	92	248	177	545	60	343	**412**	**296**
Quebec[2]	190	54	410	161	804	208	1,332	408	457	247	**3,193**	**212**
Ontario	126	22	518	119	1,033	142	2,040	333	829	245	**4,546**	**170**
Manitoba	33	53	105	229	176	235	375	595	197	576	**886**	**316**
Saskatchewan	40	69	95	231	198	308	294	548	123	436	**750**	**306**
Alberta	72	35	214	145	397	179	719	404	295	311	**1,697**	**200**
British Columbia	65	36	201	147	352	157	701	364	296	271	**1,615**	**192**
Yukon	0	0	4	324	11	514	18	1,143	5	594	**38**	**514**
Northwest Territories	3	113	13	680	21	687	45	2,047	18	1,338	**100**	**895**
Nunavut	7	223	10	489	29	848	46	1,672	19	1,465	**111**	**878**
Canada	**580**	**38**	**1,698**	**150**	**3,255**	**179**	**6,121**	**399**	**2,401**	**283**	**14,055**	**205**

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 child and youth population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Excludes a small number of victims whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.

Note: The sexual offences in this table include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3
Child and youth victims of police-reported sexual offences, by age group of victim and census metropolitan areas, 2012

	Age group of victim					
	0 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		0 to 17 years	
Census metropolitan area[1, 2, 3]	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
St. John's	7	30	35	299	**42**	**119**
Halifax	70	149	101	397	**171**	**236**
Moncton	26	152	54	633	**80**	**312**
Saint John	22	117	29	274	**51**	**174**
Saguenay	73	455	58	645	**131**	**523**
Québec	81	92	149	342	**230**	**174**
Sherbrooke	52	225	45	364	**97**	**273**
Trois-Rivières	32	200	32	355	**64**	**256**
Montréal	530	104	707	276	**1,237**	**161**
Gatineau[4]	55	125	58	267	**113**	**172**
Ottawa[5]	55	45	158	242	**213**	**114**
Kingston	42	230	57	572	**99**	**350**
Peterborough	30	231	27	344	**57**	**273**
Toronto[6]	427	60	751	202	**1,178**	**109**
Hamilton[7]	82	121	116	300	**198**	**186**
St. Catharines-Niagara	79	154	148	481	**227**	**277**
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	80	107	144	372	**224**	**197**
Brantford	31	173	36	359	**67**	**240**
Guelph	9	55	48	552	**57**	**227**
London	60	95	82	235	**142**	**145**
Windsor	35	87	77	348	**112**	**180**
Barrie	18	63	32	204	**50**	**113**
Greater Sudbury	22	113	67	598	**89**	**291**
Thunder Bay	18	135	30	382	**48**	**226**
Winnipeg	139	129	265	448	**404**	**242**
Regina	32	99	59	373	**91**	**188**
Saskatoon	57	145	92	450	**149**	**249**
Calgary	142	74	201	234	**343**	**124**
Edmonton	240	144	345	421	**585**	**236**
Kelowna	30	151	34	306	**64**	**206**
Abbotsford-Mission	24	91	36	263	**60**	**149**
Vancouver	202	71	319	201	**521**	**118**
Victoria	42	117	56	281	**98**	**176**
Total, census metropolitan areas[8]	**2,954**	**94**	**4,631**	**282**	**7,585**	**159**
Non-census metropolitan areas	2,579	185	3,891	513	**6,470**	**301**
Total, Canada	**5,533**	**122**	**8,522**	**355**	**14,055**	**203**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 child and youth population. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
6. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto CMA.
7. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton CMA.
8. Includes Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service. May include a small number of offences that occurred outside of a CMA, as 6% of the population policed by Durham Regional Police Service falls outside the boundaries of a CMA.

Notes: The sexual offences in this table include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4
Child and youth victims of police-reported sexual offences, by sex, age group, and province or territory, Canada, 2012

Province or territory	Male						Female					
	0 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		0 to 17 years		0 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		0 to 17 years	
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	15	49	23	133	**38**	**79**	44	153	148	921	**192**	**428**
Prince Edward Island	5	55	2	36	**7**	**48**	17	195	43	810	**60**	**428**
Nova Scotia	50	91	40	126	**90**	**103**	100	190	218	715	**318**	**383**
New Brunswick	54	119	42	162	**96**	**134**	121	278	194	805	**315**	**466**
Quebec[2]	415	82	281	108	**696**	**90**	989	204	1,508	604	**2,497**	**340**
Ontario	514	58	367	75	**881**	**64**	1,156	138	2,496	538	**3,652**	**280**
Manitoba	88	94	56	112	**144**	**100**	225	251	514	1,091	**739**	**541**
Saskatchewan	82	98	34	81	**116**	**93**	251	314	382	959	**633**	**528**
Alberta	186	62	93	67	**279**	**64**	497	178	919	690	**1,416**	**344**
British Columbia	178	64	95	61	**273**	**63**	439	168	901	616	**1,340**	**329**
Yukon	4	153	2	179	**6**	**161**	11	465	21	1,615	**32**	**873**
Northwest Territories	5	131	4	218	**9**	**159**	32	838	59	3,454	**91**	**1,647**
Nunavut	9	207	5	241	**14**	**218**	37	870	59	2,989	**96**	**1,542**
Canada	**1,605**	**70**	**1,044**	**86**	**2,649**	**75**	**3,919**	**180**	**7,462**	**643**	**11,381**	**341**

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 child and youth population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Excludes a small number of victims whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Note: Excludes 25 victims whose sex was reported as unknown. The sexual offences in this table include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5
Child and youth victims of police-reported sexual offences, by accused-victim relationship and age group of victim, Canada, 2012

Accused-victim relationship	Age group of victim											
	0 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 15 years		16 to 17 years		0 to 17 years	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Intimate partner[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	627	10	204	8	**841**	**6**
Family	378	66	1,042	62	1,786	55	1,718	28	466	19	**5,390**	**38**
Parent[2]	210	37	398	24	577	18	697	11	231	10	**2,113**	**15**
Other immediate family[3]	70	12	279	17	535	17	389	6	90	4	**1,363**	**10**
Extended family[4]	98	17	365	22	674	21	632	10	145	6	**1,914**	**14**
Acquaintance	174	30	556	33	1,161	36	3,007	49	1,273	53	**6,171**	**44**
Friend	25	4	118	7	243	8	635	10	226	9	**1,247**	**9**
Casual acquaintance	78	14	248	15	569	18	1,913	31	812	34	**3,620**	**26**
Authority figure[5]	60	10	113	7	236	7	310	5	144	6	**863**	**6**
Other acquaintance[6]	11	2	77	5	113	3	149	2	91	4	**441**	**3**
Stranger	23	4	88	5	284	9	769	13	458	19	**1,622**	**12**
Unknown	5	...	12	...	24	...	0	...	0	...	**41**	**...**
Total	**580**	**100**	**1,698**	**100**	**3,255**	**100**	**6,121**	**100**	**2,401**	**100**	**14,055**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes current and former boyfriends and girlfriends, legally married and common-law partners, and other intimate relationships.
2. Includes step-parents.
3. Includes step, half, foster, and adopted siblings.
4. Includes all others (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws) related or formerly related to the victim by blood, marriage, adoption, or foster.
5. Includes persons who are in a position of trust or authority and are not family members (e.g., teachers, doctors, priests, counsellors, etc.).
6. Includes all other non-stranger relationships, such as business or criminal relationships or neighbours.
Note: Percent calculations exclude unknown relationships. The sexual offences in this table include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 6
Victims and accused persons, sexual offences against children and youth, by age group, Canada, 2012

Age group of accused	Age group of victim											
	0 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 15 years		16 to 17 years		0 to 17 years	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
12 to 15 years	54	25.0	322	39.8	539	30.0	552	15.5	64	5.0	**1,531**	**19.9**
16 to 17 years	4	1.9	47	5.8	132	7.3	412	11.6	166	12.8	**761**	**9.9**
18 to 24 years	26	12.0	61	7.5	179	10.0	848	23.8	343	26.5	**1,457**	**19.0**
25 to 34 years	47	21.8	119	14.7	261	14.5	572	16.1	206	15.9	**1,205**	**15.7**
35 to 44 years	48	22.2	107	13.2	250	13.9	548	15.4	229	17.7	**1,182**	**15.4**
45 to 54 years	17	7.9	58	7.2	217	12.1	350	9.8	171	13.2	**813**	**10.6**
55 to 64 years	12	5.6	57	7.0	121	6.7	152	4.3	68	5.3	**410**	**5.3**
65 years and over	8	3.7	39	4.8	99	5.5	129	3.6	45	3.5	**320**	**4.2**
Total	**216**	**100.0**	**810**	**100.0**	**1,798**	**100.0**	**3,563**	**100.0**	**1,292**	**100.0**	**7,679**	**100.0**

Notes: Includes only those victims for which police identified a single accused person. The sexual offences in this table include aggravated sexual assault (level 3), sexual assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), sexual assault (level 1), sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting children, making sexually explicit material available to children, luring a child via a computer, anal intercourse, bestiality (commit/compel/incite), and voyeurism. Includes victims under the age of 18 only. Excludes a small number of victims in Quebec whose age was unknown but miscoded as 0.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 7
Number of completed cases in adult criminal and youth courts, by type of decision and child sexual offences, Canada, 2011/2012

Offence[1]	Guilty[2]		Acquitted[3]		Stayed/ Withdrawn[4]		Other decision[5]		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
s. 151 - Sexual interference (under 16)	750	78	61	6	145	15	8	1	**964**	**100**
s. 163.1 - Child pornography (under 18)	339	77	10	2	86	19	7	2	**442**	**100**
s. 152 - Invitation to sexual touching (under 16)	83	60	4	3	48	35	4	3	**139**	**100**
s. 172.1 - Luring a child (under 18)	70	83	2	2	10	12	2	2	**84**	**100**
s. 153 - Sexual exploitation (16 and 17)	39	57	3	4	27	39	0	0	**69**	**100**
s. 173(2) - Indecent acts (under 16)	17	53	2	6	13	41	0	0	**32**	**100**
s. 212 - Procuring prostitution (under 18)	12	48	2	8	11	44	0	0	**25**	**100**
Other child sexual offence (under 18)[6]	10	50	1	5	9	45	0	0	**20**	**100**
Total cases[7]	**1,320**	**74**	**85**	**5**	**349**	**20**	**21**	**1**	**1,775**	**100**

1. Represented by the charge with the "most serious offence" (MSO). The most serious offence is selected using the following rules. First, court decisions are considered and the charge with the "most serious decision" (MSD) is selected. Court decisions for each charge in a case are ranked from most to least serious as follows: (1) guilty, (2) guilty of a lesser offence, (3) acquitted, (4) stay of proceeding, (5) withdrawn, dismissed or discharged, (6) not criminally responsible, (7) other, and (8) transfer of court jurisdiction. Second, in cases where two or more charges result in the same MSD (for example, guilty), *Criminal Code* sanctions are considered. The charge with the most serious offence type is selected according to an offence seriousness scale, based on actual sentences handed down by courts in Canada (The offence seriousness scale is calculated using data from both the adult and youth components of the Integrated Criminal Court Survey from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007). Each offence type is ranked by looking at (1) the proportion of guilty charges where custody was imposed and (2) the average (mean) length of custody for the specific type of offence. These values are multiplied together to arrive at the final seriousness ranking for each type of offence. If, after looking at the offence seriousness scale, two or more charges remain tied then information about the sentence type and duration of the sentence are considered (for example, custody and length of custody, then probation and length of probation, etc.).
2. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
3. Acquittal means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the court.
4. Stay/Withdrawn includes stays, withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs. These decisions all refer to the court stopping criminal proceedings against the accused.
5. Other decisions include final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
6. Other child sexual offences includes the following *Criminal Code* offences: bestiality (s. 160 subsection 3), parent or guardian procuring sexual activity (s. 170), householder permitting sexual activity (s. 171) and corrupting children (s. 172).
7. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company, which were processed by the courts at the same time (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, or date of sentencing), and received a final decision. The definition attempts to reflect court processing. All data have been processed using this case definition. The case definition changed for the 2006/2007 release of data. The former definition (used in releases prior to October 2007) combined all charges against the same person disposed of in court on the same day into a case. Consequently, comparisons should not be made with data tables and reports released before that time.

Note: All adult provincial and territorial courts in 10 provinces and 3 territories reported to the survey as of 2005/2006. Information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec could not be extracted from their electronic reporting systems and was therefore unavailable. The absence of data from superior courts in these five jurisdictions may have resulted in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences since some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. All youth courts in Canada have reported to the survey since the 1991/1992 fiscal year.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey, adult and youth.

Table 8
Number of completed cases in adult criminal and youth courts by type of sentence for child sexual offences, Canada, 2009/2010 to 2011/2012

	2009/2010		2010/2011		2011/2012	
Type of sentence[1]	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Adult criminal court						
Custody[2]	811	80.2	900	80.5	901	80.9
Conditional sentence[3]	37	3.7	38	3.4	32	2.9
Probation[2, 4]	762	75.4	849	75.9	831	74.6
Fine	10	1.0	13	1.2	9	0.8
Restitution	1	0.1	2	0.2	1	0.1
Other[5]	402	39.8	466	41.7	472	42.4
Total guilty cases	**1,011**	**...**	**1,118**	**...**	**1,114**	**...**
Youth court						
Custody[2]	15	7.5	20	9.4	18	8.7
Conditional sentence[3]	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Deferred custody and supervision[6]	20	10.0	16	7.5	12	5.8
Intensive support and supervision[6]	6	3.0	9	4.2	9	4.4
Probation[2, 4]	144	71.6	148	69.5	138	67.0
Attend a nonresidential program[6]	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Fine	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Community service order	19	9.5	21	9.9	18	8.7
Reprimand[6]	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other[7]	70	34.8	82	38.5	59	28.6
Total guilty cases	**201**	**...**	**213**	**...**	**206**	**...**
Total guilty adult and youth cases	**1,212**	**...**	**1,331**	**...**	**1,320**	**...**

... not applicable
1. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%. For all sentencing tables, data are for cases with a guilty finding only.
2. Since 2004/2005 for the Northwest Territories, the number of custody orders have been under-reported and the number of probation orders have been over-reported by unknown amounts due to clerical procedures. The majority of custody orders were captured as probation.
3. Quebec and the Northwest Territories do not report conditional sentencing data at this time.
4. Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence.
5. Other sentences include absolute and conditional discharge, suspended sentence, community service order and prohibition order, for example.
6. This is a new sentence under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*) effective April 1, 2003. *YCJA* sentencing data became available for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut in 2003/2004. These data became available in 2004/2005 for Prince Edward Island and Ontario, in 2005/2006 for Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Manitoba, and Northwest Territories and in 2009/2010 for Saskatchewan. Caution must be used when comparing data prior to these dates. Where *YCJA* data are not available for a province/territory during a specific year, the *YCJA* sentence has been reported under "Other sentences".
7. Other sentences include absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs and conditional discharge. This category also includes deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision, attendance at non-residential program and reprimand where sentencing data under the *YCJA* are not available.
Note: As of 2005/2006, all adult provincial and territorial courts in 10 provinces and 3 territories reported to the survey. Information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec could not be extracted from their electronic reporting systems and was therefore unavailable. The absence of data from superior courts in these five jurisdictions may have resulted in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences since some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. Child sexual offences include only the following *Criminal Code* offences: sexual interference (s. 151), child pornography (s. 163.1), invitation to sexual touching (s. 152), luring a child (s. 172.1), sexual exploitation (s. 153), indecent acts (s. 173(2)), procuring prostitution (s. 212), and other (which includes bestiality (s. 160 subsection 3), parent or guardian procuring sexual activity (s. 170), householder permitting sexual activity (s. 171) and corrupting children (s. 172).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.